

REMARKS

Claims 1-30 were pending prior to the instant amendments.

Claims 25-30 are allowed.

Claims 10, 12-14 and 17-20 are objected to.

Claims 1 and 8-11 are amended.

Claim 7 is canceled and all rejections directed thereto are moot.

Claims 31-56 are newly entered claims.

The claims, as amended, are now believed to be allowable for the reasons set forth herein. Notice thereof is respectfully requested.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. 102

Claims 1-9, 11, 15, 16 and 22-24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Nguyen et al. (US 6,664,024).

Claim 1 has been amended to include the limitation of original claim 7.

Nguyen et al. fails to recite the claimed level of colorant and therefore the rejection is improper. Furthermore, Nguyen et al. teaches away from such high levels of colorant as set forth at col. 1, lines 61 to 67 wherein stated is:

"The inventors of this invention have also found that the presence of a colorant considerably reduced the shaping speed of a the stereolithographic process due to the photoradiation absorption of the colorant. Moreover, the presence of colorant also found to deteriorate drastically the mechanical and thermal properties of the resulting three-dimensional object."

In col. 6, lines 23-25 Nguyen et al. indicates the acceptable level of colorant to be about 0.0125 wt%. One of skill in the art when faced with the teachings of Nguyen et al. would immediately determine that levels of colorant consistent with the claimed level would be detrimental due to the poor shaping speed and the anticipated deterioration of critical properties. Applicants respectfully submit that Nguyen et al. fails to recite the claimed limitation and would lead one of skill in the in a direction contrary to the claimed invention.

The rejection of claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Nguyen et al. is overcome by amendment. Claims 2-6, 8, 9, 11, 15, 16 and 22-25 ultimately depend from claim 1 and are therefore patentable for, at least, the same reasons as claim 1.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. 103

Claim 21 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nguyen et al. (S 6,664,024) in view of Foster

et al. (US 5,882,836). Claim 21 depends from claim 1 which is amended.

Nguyen et al. is cited as disclosing the invention except for the antioxidant of claim 21. As set forth previously Nguyen et al. fails to teach the colorant concentration and leads one of skill in the art to a colorant concentration which is very low, or absent, as set forth previously.

Foster et al. is cited as teaching the antioxidant which is otherwise lacking in Nguyen et al. There is no motivation to combine these references except that provided by hindsight reconstruction based on the teachings of the present invention. Even if one did combine the antioxidant of Foster et al. with the teachings of Nguyen et al. the combination would still not lead one of skill in the art to the invention set forth in claim 21. One would be led to use very low, or no, colorant based on the expectation of detrimental properties with higher levels as described in Nguyen et al.

The rejection of claim 21 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nguyen et al. in view of Foster et al. is overcome by amendment and arguments. Withdrawal is respectfully requested.

Allowable Claims

Applicants gratefully acknowledge the allowance of claims 25-30.

Claims 31-53 are newly entered claims ultimately depending from claim 25. Claims 31-53 are supported by original claims 2-23 respectfully. Claims 31-53 are patentable for, at least, the same reasons as claim 25.

Claims 10, 12-14 and 17-20 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claim. Claim 1 has been amended and is now in condition for allowance thereby removing the objection.

Claims 54, 55 and 56 are newly entered claims with the same breadth as original claims 12, 13 and 18. Claims 54, 55 and 56 are believed to be in condition for allowance.

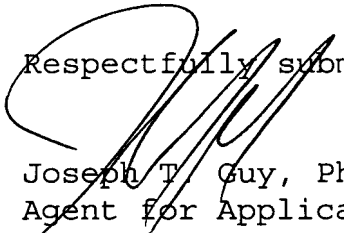
CONCLUSIONS

Claims 1-6 and 8-56 are now pending in the present application. All claims are believed to be in condition for allowance. Notice thereof is respectfully requested.

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